

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

AID-05 EB-07 HEW-06 OES-05 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DIWY-01 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 SIL-01 LAB-04 DHA-02 ORM-01 AGR-10 /134 W

----- 080107

R 161649Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4676

INFO USMISSIKON USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 5630

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ECE, UN, SPOP

SUBJECT: UN/UNFPA POST-WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE CONSULTATION
AMONG ECE REGION COUNTRIES, 7-11 JULY

REF: GENEVA A-269 OF 14 JULY 1975

1. SUMMARY: SUBJECT CONSULTATION WAS ESSENTIALLY A NON-POLITICAL, NON CONTROVERSIAL, MODERATELY HELPFUL, ECE INWARD LOOKING MEETING, ATTENDED IN THE MAIN BY MIDDLE LEVEL PROFESSIONALS. TWIN FOCI OF MEETING WERE:

A. THAT THE MARKED SLOW-DOWN IN RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH AND RESULTING CHANGES IN AGE STRUCTURE OF ECE REGION WILL HAVE INCREASINGLY MORE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REPERCUSSIONS THAT ECE NEEDS TO PAY FAR MORE EXPLICIT ATTENTION TO IN ITS FUTURE WORK.

B. A DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY ECE COUNTRIES SINCE BUCHAREST (NOT ALWAYS DIRECTLY BECAUSE OF BUCHAREST AND THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION) FURTHERING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES AND MEASURES ADVOCATED IN THE WPPA SUCH AS HIGHER MINIMUM AGE FOR MARRIAGE, BROADENED
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WOMEN'S RIGHTS, LIBERALIZED ABORTION LAWS, CHILD AND

SOCIAL WELFARE IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.

2. CONSULTATION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED ONE WATERED-DOWN RESOLUTION (1) REQUESTING ECE TO TAKE "WHATEVER MEASURES REQUIRED TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARA 7 OF GA RES 3344 (XXIX)" RE IMPLEMENTATING THE WPPA; AND (2) REQUESTING EXSEC OF ECE TO PRESENT PROPOSALS TO 31ST SESSION OF ECE TO SECURE A PROPER RESPONSE TO THE DEMANDS LAID ON ECE BY WPPA AND GA RES 3344. END SUMMARY.

3. IMPRESSIVE OPENING ADDRESS BY EXSEC OF ECE RELATED CONSULTATION AND POPULATION MATTERS TO THE MOST IMPORTANT MATTERS FACING ECE COUNTRIES AND WORLD TODAY WHILE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT ECE HAD NO WORK PLAN OR INDEED EVEN MANDATE IN THE POPULATION FIELD AND HINTING STRONGLY THAT THIS CONSULTATION SHOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CORRECT THAT.

4. ECE REGION (INCLUDING US AND USSR) WILL DROP FROM ONE-THIRD TO ONE-FIFTH OF WORLD'S POPULATION BY 2000, WITH THE POPULATION FAR OLDER, A SHRINKAGE IN LABOR SUPPLY, AND RECALLING THAT THE REGION IS A POORLY ENDOWED GLUTTON (USING 85 PERCENT OF WORLD'S OIL BUT HAVING ONLY 20 PERCENT OF THE RESERVES, ETC) IN ALL ENERGY AND RAW MATERIAL AREAS EXCEPT ARABLE LAND AND FOOD.

5. SAID THAT EVENTS OF PAST YEAR HAVE PROVED THAT ZERO GROWTH BE IT IN POPULATION OR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS DEFINITELY NOT THE ANSWER TO THE REGIONS OR TO THE WORLD'S NEEDS. WORLD NEEDED SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT WOULD PERMIT RE-DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME BETWEEN THE WORLD'S REGIONS WITHOUT CONFRONTATION. REMINDED EVERYONE DEVELOPMENT AND A NEW INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR NEED NOT BE A ZERO SUM GAME. IN SPITE OF ITS FEARS EUROPE LOST NOTHING, BUT ACTUALLY GAINED, WHEN THE US INDUSTRIALIZED OVER THE PAST 125 YEARS. DEVELOPMENT IS ALWAYS CHANGE-- "A CREATIVE DESTRUCTION". ECE INSTEAD OF STUDYING DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS SHOULD HEREAFTER STUDY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THESE TRENDS PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF MANPOWER AND MIGRATION.

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6. UN (TABAH) AND UNFPA (GILLE) SPOKESMAN IN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS SAID THE CONSULTATION WAS AIMED AT THE IMPLICATIONS AND THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WPPA MOST IMPORTANTLY BY GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES, BUT ALSO BY REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE VARIOUS UN BODIES, AND THAT THE FIRST STEP TOWARD MAKING THE PLAN OPERATIONAL HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN BY THE GA'S ADOPTION IN DECEMBER OF RES 3344. TABAH AND GILLE BOTH HINTED STRONGLY

THEY ALSO FAVORED WIDENED MANDATE FOR ECE TO ALLOW IT
GIVE PROPER ATTENTION TO POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES.
AND THE RUSSIANS FROWNED.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: UK (THOMPSON) ELECTED CHAIRMAN
WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND DENMARK THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND SWEDEN
(WHREN) AS RAPPORTEUR. THOMPSON DID EXCELLENT JOB OF
STEERING CONSULTATION WHICH WAS HANDICAPPED BY VERY LATE
DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS. IN WHAT MUST BE
SOME KIND OF UN RECORD, EVERY MEETING STARTED ON TIME.

8. POST-WAR DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN EUROPE AND THE OUTLOOK
TO THE YEAR 2000: THIS MASSIVE ECE REPORT HIGHLIGHTED (1)
WIDENING GAP IN POPULATION GROWTH RATES BETWEEN EUROPE
AND THE REST OF THE WORLD; (2) EUROPE BECOMING MORE
HOMOGENEOUS; (3) HUGH INCREASES IN EUROPE'S AGED PEOPLE AND
THE IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THIS;
(4) AFTER MANY DECADES OF ADVANCES IN LONGER LIFE EXPECTATIONS,
MORTALITY AMONG MEN IN ECE REGION MAY BE INCREASING; (5)
THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION ON REAL INCOME AND RISING REAL COST
OF CREATING AND KEEPING FAMILIES, CHANGING ROLE AND RIGHTS
OF WOMEN AND OTHER MEASURES THAT ARE CAUSING A CONTINUED
DECLINE IN FERTILITY; (6) MIGRATION OUT OF EUROPE HAS SLOWED
TO A TRICKLE AND INTRA-REGIONAL MIGRATION ALSO DOWN FROM
1960-1972 PERIOD LEVEL WITH GATHERING DOUBTS RE THE
SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES AND COSTS OF LARGE SHIFTS OF
MIGRANT LABOR.

9. COUNTRY COMMENTS LARGELY SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS GIVING
COUNTRY SPECIFICS ON TRENDS AND POLICIES.

GENERAL THEMES:

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(A) PEOPLE SHOULD FOLLOW A WAY OF LIFE OF THEIR OWN
CHOOSING WITH ASSURANCE ALL CHILDREN WILL HAVE A DECENT
CHANCE AND THAT A COUNTRY'S DEMOGRPHIC POLICY SHOULD NEVER
BE AN END IN ITSELF OR BE USED TO REDUCE HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FREEDOMS OF CHOICE;

(B) WHILE EUROPE'S BIRTH RATE WAS DROPPING AND ITS POPULATION
GETTING OLDER THERE WAS NO NEED TO PANIC OR TAKE
DRACONIAN MEASURES;

(C) MIGRATION-QUESTION CAUSES FAR FEWER FIREWORKS THAN
ANTICIPATED LARGELY BECAUSE PORTUGAL AND SPAIN DID NOT SEND
DELEGATIONS AND THE ITALIAN DELEGATION (WITH 4 DELEGATES,
ITALY HAD THE LARGEST DELEGATION--TO A POPULATION MEETING*)
LIMITED ITS COMMENTS ON MIGRATION TO ONE OR TWO BLAND

SENTENCES.

10. AS EARLIER REQUESTED BY THE UN POPULATION DIVISION, THE US DELEGATION PASSED OUT A PAPER TO ALL CONSULTATION PARTICIPANTS ON POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES IN THE U.S.

11. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS SAID THAT WHILE THE LONG-TERM TREND WAS DOWN THEY BELIEVED EUROPE WAS GOING THROUGH A

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PERIOD OF FLUCTUATIONS AND OSCILLATIONS RE BIRTH RATE INCREASES (FINLAND, POLAND, ETC.) AND DECREASES THAT WOULD HAVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS AND WHICH CALLED FOR MORE FREQUENT POPULATION PROJECTIONS IN ORDER TO BE QUICKLY AND FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY POLICY MAKERS.

12. USSR INVOLVEMENT: RUSSIANS, REPRESENTED BY A DIPLOMAT (PAVLOV) MADE ONLY ONE BLAND, HIGH ROAD ("HUMANITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS MUST ALWAYS BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT") STATEMENT THROUGHOUT CONSULTATION. IN CORRIDORS THEY WERE (1) VERY FRIENDLY TO US AND (2) ATTEMPTED SUCCESSFULLY TO SOMEWHAT DILUTE THE RESOLUTION CALLING ON ECE TO DO MORE IN THE POPULATION AREA.

13. WOMEN'S RIGHTS: ALMOST ALL DELEGATIONS STRESSED VARIOUS MAJOR STEPS THEIR COUNTRY HAD RECENTLY TAKEN OR WAS IN THE PROCESS OF TAKING INCLUDING: HIGHER MINIMUM MARRIAGE AGE (ITALY); LIBERALIZED DIVORCE LAWS (FRANCE) AND ABORTION LAWS (NORWAY); INCREASED HEALTH CARE AND CHILD CARE BENEFITS (RUSSIA, POLAND, FRANCE, SWEDEN, NETHERLANDS, ETC). WHILE NOT THE CAUSE MANY DELEGATIONS STATED THEY BELIEVED THAT THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR THE WPC AND WPPA HAD HELPED TO

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"SPEED UP" LIBERALIZING LEGISLATION IN ALL OF THE ABOVE AREAS.

14. ON THE LAST DAY OF THE CONSULTATION SYG SIPILA OF THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SPOKE BRIEFLY INDICATING THAT DESPITE CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AND SOME POLITICAL CONTRATEMPS, THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE WAS (1) AN EXCELLENT FOLLOW-UP TO THE WPC; (2) BROKE NEW GROUND RE UN DOCUMENTS IN A FEW WOMEN'S RIGHTS AREAS SUCH AS BETTER SHARING OF FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF WOMEN, FREE CHOICE WHETHER OR NOT TO HAVE ANY CHILDREN; (3) WILL STIMULATE MORE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN FROM THE LDC'S IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THAN WAS PREVIOUSLY THE CASE, AND BUILD A NEW CONSTITUENCY; (4) REFLECTED LDC WOMEN'S CONCERNS AND NEEDS MORE THAN THOSE OF WOMEN FROM DEVELOPED WORLD BUT IF IT HAD TO BE TILTED THAT WAS THE BEST WAY FOR IT TO BE TILTED; AND (5) THE IRANIAN INVITATION TO HOST A SECOND WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SOON-ON (1980) SHOULD SERVE AS A STIMULUS TO MORE BEING DONE TO FOLLOW UP ON THE PLAN OF ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FLOWING FROM THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE THAN OTHERWISE WOULD BE CASE.

15. THE WPPA AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND AID. BECAUSE SO MANY OF THE DELEGATES WERE FROM STATISTICAL, CENSUS, AND DOMESTIC DEMOGRAPHIC OFFICES, THIS PART OF AGENDA GOT SOMEWHAT SHORTCHANGED ALTHOUGH THERE WERE A FEW STRONG, HELPFUL STATEMENTS BY THE NETHERLANDS, THE SWEDES (GIVING 3-4 PERCENT OF THEIR AID IN POPULATION AREA) THE FRG AND THE UK. ADDITIONALLY, THE STRONG US STATEMENT WHICH EMPHASIZED BOTH THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND THE FOOD-POPULATION LINK ELEMENTS SEEMINGLY WAS WELL RECEIVED-- BEING SECONDED BY THE NETHERLANDS AND THE FRG. INDEED EVEN SWEDEN, RATHER SURPRISINGLY, WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO AGREE WITH THE US CONCERNING THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF PARAS 31 AND 32 OF THE WPPA (RE AREAS OF AID PARTICULARLY CONDUCIVE TO MODERATING FERTILITY).

16. MONITORING, REVIEW AND APPRAISAL TIMETABLE: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, TABAH SAID (1) POPULATION DIVISION MET WITH UN AGENCIES AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS IN LATE JUNE

TO FURTHER COORDINATE THEIR RESPECTIVE INPUTS AND TO PERFECT
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A "FACTUAL, DESCRIPTIVE" THIRD INQUIRY QUESTIONNAIRE THAT,
AFTER FURTHER WORK, WILL GO OUT TO ALL COUNTRIES, UNDER A
LETTER FROM THE SYG, IN NOVEMBER TO BE RETURNED BY APRIL 1976,
TABULATED, REFINED AND SUMMARIZED BY THE UN AND PRESENTED TO
THE NEXT MEETING OF THE POPULATION COMMISSION IN JANUARY 1977.

17. POSTSCRIPT. IT WAS APPARENT THAT WPPA MAY IN FACT BE,
AS IT HAS BEEN CALLED, "A PLAN FOR ALL SEASONS". CERTAINLY
THE DELEGATES AT THE ECE REGIONAL MEETING THOUGHT IT HAD
FURTHER ACCELERATED ATTITUDINAL CHANGES, LIBERALIZED
LEGISLATION, AND DYNAMISM AND AS SUCH HAD PROVEN TO DATE TO
BE A HELPFUL DOCUMENT. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPULATION, POLICIES, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA05630
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750246-0001
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750752/aaaabuio.tel
Line Count: 296
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GENEVA A-269
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUL 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN/UNFPA POST-WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE CONSULTATION AMONG ECE REGION COUNTRIES, 7-11 JULY
TAGS: SPOP, ECE, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006